Detailed Guideline for Formulation of Research Question

Through this assignment, you will learn how to formulate a research question and the way of conducting an effective literature search by using library electronic resources.

A. Identification of Topic and Formulation of Research Question

a. Identify a topic (select 2 variables) that is relevant to Class Project and formulate a research question.

b. The research question should be stated in one sentence, containing three key elements of such a question: 1) an independent variable, 2) a dependent variable, and 3) the study (or target) population.
Research question formats will be: You can use one of the formats.
1) Is Variable 1 related to Variable 2?
2) Is there a relationship between Variable 1 and Variable 2?
3) Does Variable 2 (DV) vary by Variable 1?
4) Is Variable 1 associated with Variable 2?
5) What is the difference in DV (depression levels) between African Americans and Whites (IV) among the victim of attempted or completed rape?

c. State the research hypothesis.
E.g., Variable 1 is associated with variable 2.

d. Specify the independent and dependent variable(s) and the study population.

e. Explain why is it relevant to social work and sociology? By addressing this research question, what contributions can you make to sociology/ social work practice and/or policy?

f. To conduct an effective literature search and review, you need to list 5-6 search terms that are most relevant to the research question. The independent variables, dependent variables, study population, and their synonyms might be an effective search terminology. Use these terms to find out five empirical studies published in peer-reviewed journals through the Calvin College Library Electronic Resources. Editorials, reviews, or conceptual/theoretical articles are not empirical studies. An empirical article is an article which reports a research based on quantitative or qualitative data derived from actual observation. (**Please, see the example of literature search assignment for further information).**